



Becker County
Population 32,230

Number of persons with
a disability +5 year old:
4,799



Transition Handbook for Students with Autism in Becker County
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SPED 562
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Transition

Transition: What is transition? If your child receives special education services, transition is a process of designing a plan to help the child transition from attending high school to life after graduation. It is a plan that takes into consideration the child's dreams, goals, needs and abilities. The transition plan is a way to systematically consider what each child needs in order to leave the protected environment of high school once the child graduates. Transition planning should start no later than 14 or earlier if it is appropriate. Although it is the school system's responsibility to start the transition process, it is no way just the school system's responsibility to do all of the parts of the transition plan. There are often many people involved in the transition planning. Many times there are outside agencies that can assist the child by accessing numerous programs, benefits and services.

Transition can also be a time when a child transitions from being at home/going to daycare to attending some type of more structured school environment. Instead of receiving special education services at home or at daycare, the child goes into a school type of center where s/he is part of a class of some type. Transition considerations are then made for the child to transition into a more school setting.

This handbook was developed for the students with autism who reside in Becker County to have a clearer understanding of what Becker County as a county has to offer if one continues to live in Becker County. By no means does this handbook contain all that is out there, but it is written as a way for one to start to have a clearer picture of what Becker County as to offer. When the author was collecting information, the author talked to a former adult disabilities case manager for Becker County. When asked what is one thing that sticks out in all of the years that they have case managed the former case manager stated they wished parent knew a few things. One being that by no way do they (as in the county) want to take the child away from families. Their role as case managers is to assist families in accessing all of the help that is out there to be used. The second thing that the former case manager wanted families to know is that trust is needed between both the case managers and the family. Trust that both parties do their best to complete time lines, be forthright with information, and know that the best interest of the child is what is driving the process. The last thing that the case manager wanted to press upon is that there is a lot of services out there. He felt that many times people were going without because they didn't take the time to ask questions and research what is out there.

This handbook was compiled with the thought that many people would begin the transition process with going on line and seeing what each organization was a bit about or collecting ideas from each organization's web page. The author acknowledges that not everyone has access to a computer from their home so an attempt was made to include phone numbers as well as addresses.

Many of the government programs do not have offices in Becker County, so an attempt was made at finding the closest office to list for contact information was made.

Birth to Preschool Age Programs

Head Start

Mission:

Head Start is a national program that promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

Program Description:

The Head Start program provides grants to local public and private non-profit and for-profit agencies to provide comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and families, with a special focus on helping preschoolers develop the early reading and math skills they need to be successful in school. In FY 1995, the Early Head Start program was established to serve children from birth to three years of age in recognition of the mounting evidence that the earliest years matter a great deal to children's growth and development.

Head Start programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. They engage parents in their children's learning and help them in making progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals. Significant emphasis is placed on the involvement of parents in the administration of local Head Start programs.

Part of the Head Start program is assisting families in transitioning to school age programs. Head Start utilizes several forms to assist with the transition process. In the appendix of this handbook are a few examples of the forms used.

Information taken from Head Start's web page
<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/About%20Head%20Start>

Local Head Start program information can be found at:

Mahube Community Council Head Start
1125 West River Road
P.O. Box 747
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-0747
(218) 847-1385

with programs being located in Detroit Lakes, Audubon, Frazee, White Earth, Naytahwaush and Waubun.

Other Preschool Programs or ECFE (early childhood family education)

The acronym ECFE stands for Early Childhood Family Education. The ECFE's program provides classes, programs, and services for families with young children from birth to Kindergarten age. They recognize that parents are a child's first and most significant teachers and strive to provide a rich environment of play to promote learning, development, and curiosity within our classroom. ECFE helps build healthy families and sets the stage for parent involvement and children's success in Kindergarten and everyday life experiences.

Some of the ECFE programs in Becker County include:

Transition Handbook for Individuals with Autism in Becker County

Detroit Lakes Community Education
ECFE Programs and Great Start Preschool
204 Willow Street EAST,
Detroit Lakes, MN-56501
218-847-4418
www.dlschools.com

Frazee-Vergus School District
ECFE/School Readiness classes
305 N. Lake St
Frazee, MN 56544

P: 218-334-3181

www.frazee.k12.mn.us

Ogema Elementary School
ECFE/Community Education
212 Uron Street
PO Box 68
Ogema, MN 56569

218-473-6175

Lake Park Audubon Community Education
Learning Ladder
PO Box 338, Audubon, MN
(218) 439-3889
ecfe@lpa.k12.mn.us

Learning Ladder's mission Statement:

Our mission is to offer a preschool experience to all children in the district. This preschool is designed to help ease the transition between home and school with the belief that LEARNING IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH PLAY. Children are motivated to learn by exploring their environment. Parents are the most important teachers in a child's life. Attendance at Parent Child Classes is required to enhance the understanding of the program. A parent's involvement is important to school success. GOAL: The goal of our program is to promote the physical, intellectual, social and emotional development of each child in our class through interactions with peers and teachers. Experiences, interactions and materials that enhance and stimulate learning will be provided. Teachers will interact with children as individuals, in small and large groups, and as a guide to learning through play.

Transitioning into School Age

When it is determined that the preschool child is ready for starting kindergarten it is the early childhood special education (ECSE) teacher's duty to help the parents and child transition into kindergarten. Most times in the spring the ECSE teacher will hold a transition meeting so that the parents of the child can meet the special education teacher who will be the case manager.

The school districts that are in Becker County:

Detroit Lakes Public Schools
Administration Center
702 Lake Ave
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
(218) 847-9271
www.dlschools.com

Frazee-Vergus School District
ECFE/School Readiness classes
305 N. Lake St
Frazee, MN 56544
P: 218-334-3181
famctr@frazee.k12.mn.us

Lake Park Audubon School District
Audubon Elementary School
601 4th Street/PO box 338
Audubon, MN 56511
218-439-3301
www.lakeparkaudubon.com

Ogema Elementary School
212 Uron Street
PO Box 68
Ogema, MN 56569

218-473-6174

<http://waubun.k12.mn.us/home/index.php>

One type of services that school aged children can access in school is school based mental health services. Currently Becker County is participating in a grant that allows mental health practitioners to come into the schools and provide CTSS (Children's Therapeutic Services & Supports) services. Below are several agencies that can provide CTSS services.

Stellher Human Services, Inc.
Graystone Hotel, Suite 111
119 Pioneer St.
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Phone: (218) 844-5697
Fax: (218) 844-5697
www.stellher.com

Besides a whole host of mental health services that Stellher provides, they also have a program specifically developed for the birth to preschool age child.

Solutions
1104 West River Road
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
218.844.6853
218.844.6854 Fax
www.solutionsinpractice.org

Services at SOLUTIONS are provided by a team of specialists with expertise in the technology of applied behavioral analysis and experience in the application of these procedures to autism-spectrum disorders. The goal of these services is to reduce competing behaviors and to enhance educational efforts. Initially, an assessment is conducted to establish the individual's current functioning and to gain a comprehensive understanding of the individual's needs. Barriers to learning are identified, and detailed, practical suggestions are offered. Treatment plans are developed using a skill deficit model and a comprehensive client-centered approach. We work with inter-agency teams, including staff at all levels, to design functional approaches for complex problems. (Taken from Solutions's web page)

Lakeland Mental Health Center
928 8th St. SE
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
(218) 847-1676
www.lmhc.org

Lakeland Mental Health Center is another CTSS provider as well as many other mental health services. They also provide psychiatric evaluation and medication management as well as day treatment for school aged children. Lake Park Audubon Public Schools (who are apart of Lake Agassiz Special Education Co-op) have access to day treatment programming through individuals who are contracted through Lakeland Mental Health Center.

Transitioning into Middle and High School settings

Although formal transition plans are not mandated by law for a child to enter middle school or high school (depending on if the school has a middle school), many times elementary schools have informal transition meetings and get to know you sessions. Sometimes the case manager will set up orientation meetings for the child and their parents to go to the new school building and meet some of their teachers and new case manager. It isn't until the child turns 14 that law mandates a transition plan be developed. Please be vocal if this is something you want to participate as a family by talking to your child's case manager.

When a child becomes 14, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA P.L. 101-476) mandates that a transition plan be developed along with the child's IEP. The transition plan helps students and families look ahead to the future to determine what necessary steps are needed to plan the child's education and life skills a child needs beyond high school.

IDEA REQUIREMENTS

IDEA '97 defines transition services as follows:

(a) as used in this part [34 CFR part B], transition services means a coordinated set of activities for student with a disability that

(1) is designed within an outcome-oriented process that promotes movement from school to postschool activities, including post-secondary education, vocational training, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation;

(2) Is based on the individual student's needs, taking into account the student's preferences and interests; and

(3) Includes

a. Instruction;

b. Related services;

c. Community experiences;

d. The development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives; and

e. If appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.

IDEA '97 requires that, among other elements, the IEP include: A statement of the child's present levels of educational performance including how the child's disability affects the child's involvement and progress in the general curriculum (i.e., the same curriculum as for non-disabled children)." [34 CFR 300.347 (a)(1)(i)]

For each student with a disability beginning at age 14 (or younger, if determined appropriate by the IEP team) and updated annually, a statement of the transition service needs of the student that focuses on the student's course of study (such as participation in advanced-placement courses or a vocational education program)." [34 CFR 300.347(b)(1)]

For each student beginning at age 16 (or younger, if determined appropriate by the IEP team), a statement of the needed transition services for the student, including if appropriate, a statement of the interagency responsibilities or any needed linkages." [34 CFR 300.347(b)(2)] Participants at the meeting may include, at the discretion of the parents or the agency, other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the child including related services personnel as appropriate.) [34 CFR 300.344(a)(6)] The public agency also shall invite a representative of any other agency that is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services." [34 CFR 300.344(b)(3)(i)].

Although this comes from the state of Colorado, it has an excellent website for teachers and parents who are in the middle of planning for their high school student's transition to adulthood. The whole site is a wonderful source of information. There are several pdf's that are most helpful and some of the pages are included in this handbook as a way to show the helpfulness of this website. All of the pages are taken from the Colorado Department of Education and in no way created by the author of this handbook. They will be placed in the appendix of this handbook.

Contact information:

Colorado Dept. of Education

ESLU

1560 Broadway, Suite 1175

Denver, CO 80202

Phone: (303) 866-6694

Fax: (303) 866-6767

TTY: (303) 860-7060

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/TK.asp>

Post Secondary

Becker County is home to one post secondary institution. One of the nice aspects Minnesota State and Technical College-Detroit Lakes Campus (M State) is that there are several campuses that together make the Minnesota State Technical College System. Many technical programs are offered and there are agreements between M-State and the local colleges in the Fargo/Moorhead area. When applying to any college it is very important for the success of the student to contact the disabilities coordinator to set up a meeting to learn about the services that can be offered to the student. According to M-State's web page "Minnesota State Community and Technical College provides outstanding facilities designed to meet the educational needs of students who may have physical, visual, hearing, learning, or other disabilities. M State provides a wide variety of supplemental services to students who provide the college with information documenting a disability including: Screen enlargers for computers, Computer dictionaries and encyclopedias, Recorded books, Adapted testing, Tutoring, Information on note taking, study skills, and time management, Developmental courses in math and composition."

Below is the contact information for M State.

Minnesota State and Technical College-Detroit Lakes Campus
900 Hwy 34 E
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Local: 218.846.3700

Toll Free: 800.492.4836

Fax: 218.846.3794

<http://www.minnesota.edu/detroitlakes/>

Smart Start

One unique program that M State participants in is Start Smart. Start Smart is a program that several local colleges participant in as way for parents and students to gain an understanding of the facilities and services the college can offer. One main program objective is for the student to develop an understanding of the disability services available at a post-secondary level. It is also a great way for the students to hear the expectations that colleges have and how their grades and decisions that they make in high school will effect their college opportunities.

The program is free and lunch is provided. It is aimed at high school sophomores, junior, and seniors with disabilities along with their parents and high school teachers.

Contact information for Start Smart

Inger Wegener

Lake Country Service Cooperative

Fergus Falls, MN

218-739-3273

or

Carrie Hanson

Runestone Area Partnership

Alexandria

320-762-4943

web page:

www.lcsc.org

click on the link to go to the workshops page and scroll down to “Start Smart”

Becker County Programs

Becker County

712 Minnesota Ave
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Phone: 218-847-5628

Fax: 218-847-6738

www.co.becker.mn.us

Becker County is the go to for all county services and assist families to receive assistance and benefits. There are many programs that a county case manager is aware of and if nothing else is a great resource provider. One must remember though that in order to receive assistance one must qualify for the assistance. The criteria is set by either the state of Minnesota or the federal government

Becker County's Department of Human Services is the department to access services that could be provided. Their Mission statement is: To provide assistance to the needy residents of Becker County within the program guidelines as set forth by Federal and State law. To affirm the responsibility of Becker County parents to support their children.

There are two main types of services that the county provides: Financial and Social Services. Financial Support is defined as a way to promote self-sufficiency through programs and services and referrals to community resources. Below is a listing and definitions of some of the programs that Becker County manages. This information was taken off of the Becker County web site.

General Assistance (GA) : Provides assistance for people without children who are certified by a physician to be physically or mentally incapacitated and unable to perform employment. He/she may also be an SSI applicant or appellant, or meet non-citizen criteria. Applicants are required to apply for other maintenance benefits such as Veterans, Worker's Compensations, Social Security, Unemployment Compensation, etc.

Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA) : This program is for elderly or disabled people who do not have enough income to meet their basic needs. These are people who reside in their own homes, nursing homes, or other facilities.

Food Support (FS) : This program is for all people who are within the income and asset guidelines set forth by the USDA. Food support benefits are issued via Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) directly to recipients.

Group Residential Housing : This program was formerly funded under MSA and provides payment for room and board at licensed GRH facilities.

Minnesota Health Care Programs : These programs are available to people who meet income and asset guidelines and have a medical need. Currently we are administering the Prepaid Medical Assistance Program through State contracted health plans.

Employment Services Program : This program is a requirement of the MFIP/DWP program for individuals to be referred for support in obtaining the most direct path to employment. Rural Minnesota CEP is the contractor currently providing employment services to the MFIP/DWP population.

The other type of services that Becker County provides is human services. Two of the most common services that are accessed is: **Developmental Disabilities and Related Conditions** : This program provides services to developmentally disabled children and adults to promote self sufficiency, independence and community integration with services provided in the least restrictive setting.

Services are based on needs and preferences of the consumer and provide opportunities for development and exercise of age appropriate skills, decision-making and choice, personal advocacy and communication. Services include residential services, sheltered employment, independent living skills training, respite care and information and referral. Case management services are provided to assist in assessing individuals' needs, to arrange for services, to develop case plans and monitor outcomes.

Another great service that Becker County provides is the **Becker County Workshop**. It is a sheltered employment and also provides training for individuals with disabilities and barriers to competitive employment. Besides the people earning a wage, the workshop provides on site supported employment, vocational evaluation, placement and job coaching. To request services or receive additional information, call 218/847-5628 and ask for Adult Intake.

Minnesota Workforce Center-Detroit Lakes

801 Roosevelt Avenue

Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-3703

218-846-7379

TTY: 218-846-0772

http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/JobSeekers/WorkForce_Centers/See_All_WorkForce_Center_Locations/WFC_-_Detroit_Lakes/index.aspx

The Department of Employment and Economic Development has a Minnesota Workforce Center located in Detroit Lakes. This center helps job seekers find employment as well as help businesses find workers. They have a number of available assistive technology that can help job seekers access computer programs to help them write resume, fill out applications and search for jobs. They also offer a number of different workshops and trainings such as writing effective resumes and cover letters, effective job interview skills and tapping the hidden market. They also offer assistance in living independently so one can live in their own home and work in their own community by linking the individual to a center for independent living. See more information below under MN associate of Center for Independent Living.

Rule 185 Case Management

One of the ways to determine if a student qualifies for county case management is a rule called Rule 185. Below is the rule that was taken from the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Minnesota Rules, Parts 9525.0004 through 9525.0036, establishes standards that govern the provision of case management administration and case management services to persons with mental retardation or related conditions by county boards or others authorized by the Commissioner to provide case management.

Rule 185 case management for persons with mental retardation or related conditions assists persons in gaining access to needed social, medical, educational and other supports and services. The case manager works on behalf of the person to identify their unique needs and to minimize the impact of the disability on the person's life while assuring continuity of services and supports for the person.

To be eligible for Rule 185 case management, a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation, arranged by a case manager, must indicate that the person has a diagnosis of mental retardation or a related condition.

A child under the age of five years without a conclusive diagnosis must demonstrate significant sub-average intellectual function concurrent with demonstrated deficits in adaptive behavior.

Related condition is a diagnosis of severe, chronic disability that meets **all** of the following conditions:

1. Is attributed to cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, Prader-Willi syndrome or any other condition other than mental illness or an emotional disturbance
2. Is found to be closely related to mental retardation because the condition results in impairment of general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior similar to that of persons with mental retardation and requires treatment or services similar to those required for persons with mental retardation
3. Is manifested before the person reaches 22 years of age
4. Is likely to continue indefinitely
5. Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity:

- Self-care
- Understanding and use of language
- Learning
- Mobility
- Self-direction
- Capacity for independent living

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=id_000818

Above is the link where the rule was found.

Besides the county providing case management other organizations can provide the case

management. Even though Lutheran Social Services of MN does not have an office in Becker County, they have offices through out the state and can be a good resource of information.

Blue Sky Incorporate
1-877-722-3013 or 1-218-844-7591
1000 SE 8th Street
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
<http://blueskyinc.info/default.aspx>

Lutheran Social Service of MN
<http://www.lssmn.org/guardianship/about.html>
2485 Como Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
651.310.9400
1.888.242.0012

Developmental Disabilities Waiver

The Developmental Disabilities Waiver: This program is designed to provide services and supports that will allow eligible individuals with developmental disabilities to participate as active members of their communities. Developmental Disabilities Waiver is one of several waivers available and the program serves as an alternative to institutional care. Once needs are assessed and determined, one may receive those services in the person's own home, in his or her own families' home or in a foster care home setting. According to the Department of Human service a DD Waiver is defined as “ Home and community based services necessary as an alternative to institutionalization that promote the optimal health, independence, safety and integration of a person who meets the waiver eligibility criteria and who would require the level of care provided in an Intermediate Care Facility for persons with mental retardation or related conditions” In order to qualify for a DD Waiver one must:

1. Be eligible for [Medical Assistance \(MA\)](#) based on disability diagnosis.
2. Have a developmental disability as defined in MN Rule 9525.0016 or a related condition as defined in Minnesota Statutes 252.27, subd 1a.
3. Reside in an [ICF/MR](#) and continue to require an ICF/MR level of care or the screening team determines the person would be placed in an ICF/MR if home and community based services were not provided.
4. Require daily interventions, daily service needs and a 24-hour plan of care that is specified in the care plan.
5. Be assessed to need a residential rehabilitation service that must be included in the person's care plan.
6. Have made an informed choice of waiver services instead of ICF/MR services.
7. Have an assessed need for supports and services over and above those available through the MA State Plan.

Covered Services that the Waiver provides can be:

- [24-Hour Emergency Assistance](#)
- [Adult Day Care/Adult Day Care Bath](#)
- [Assistive Technology](#)
- [Caregiver Living Expenses](#)
- [Caregiver Training and Education](#)
- [Case Management](#)
- [Chore Service](#)
- [Consumer Directed Community Supports \(CDCS\)](#)
- [Consumer Training and Education](#)
- [Crisis Respite](#)
- [Day Training and Habilitation](#)
- [Environmental Accessibility and Adaptations](#)
- [Extended Home Care Services](#)
- [Home Delivered Meals](#)
- [Homemaker](#)
- [Housing Access Coordination](#)
- [Personal Support](#)

- [Prevocational Services](#)
- [Residential Habilitation](#) (In-Home Family Support, Supported Living Services)
- [Respite](#)
- [Specialist Services](#)
- [Supported Employment Services](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Transitional Services](#)

Public Transportation

Transit in Becker County is very important as besides the actual town of Detroit Lakes, there are several other towns that make up Becker County. One way for an individual to be self supportive is to be able to get around semi-independently.

Becker County transit provides “Comfortable, Friendly Economical Transportation for Everyone”. They will provide door to door service to passengers with special needs and will assist people from their personal door to the transit bus. All riders are charged the same fee of \$1.50 per 5-mile increment with PCA's not being charged to ride. There are some specific guidelines and more information can be found at <http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/transit/default.aspx>.

Becker County Transit

712 Minnesota Ave
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Phone: 218-847-1674
Toll Free: 888-847-1674
Fax: 218-847-6738

rdhaski@co.becker.mn.us

Housing Options

Section 8 housing is available for very low-income families, elderly, and people with disabilities. This type of housing is based on the use of subsidies, the amount of which is geared to the tenant's ability to pay. The subsidy makes up the difference between what the low-income household can afford, and the contract rent established by HUD for an adequate housing unit. It is around 40% of the person's annual income.

Section 8 Housing/Public Housing programs in Becker Co is now under the Economic Development Authority (EDA). For more information on qualifications and to contact the EDA at:

Economic Development Authority (EDA)
Human Services Bldg - 2nd Floor

712 Minnesota Ave
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Phone: 218-846-7330

Fax: 218-846-7329

http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/housing_eda/default.aspx

Group and Foster Homes

Sometimes it is determined that an student is no longer able to be cared for at their own home by their family or the individual wishes to move out of their family's home in order to be more independent but has yet to develop the necessary skills to live independently. That is where the group homes in Becker County can be an alternative place to live. There are several types of homes and the list provided is only a small number of homes. The best contact to find out more information is a county case manager. Many of the homes provide several types of living services. Such services are often focused on teaching the student independent living skills so that the individual can either eventually live on their own or with a room mate or live in a setting where minimal assistance is needed.

Blue Sky Incorporate
1-877-722-3013 or 1-218-844-7591
1000 SE 8th Street
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
<http://blueskyinc.info/default.aspx>

Divine House Inc

(218) 847-0574

26881 County Highway 32
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-7705

Lakes Homes & Program Development, Inc.
847 US Highway 10 East/ PO Box 1355

Detroit Lakes MN 56501
(218) 847.5642 • Fax: (218) 847.7176
Email: lakeshomesdl@yahoo.com
<http://www.lakeshomes.org/>

Below is Lakes Home's philosophy that was taken off of their web page so that one can see the idea behind one living in a home outside of their biological parents' home.

Lakes Homes & Program Development, Inc., believes in the normalization principle of providing individuals who are developmentally disabled the experience necessary to obtain an existence as close to the normal as possible, making available to them, patterns and conditions of everyday life that are as close as possible to the norms and patterns of the mainstream of society. We believe in the individualization principle whereby the uniqueness of each person is recognized, strengths and weaknesses are determined, and a program developed specifically to meet each individual's own particular needs. We believe in the developmental process that every individual who is developmentally disabled should be approached with the positive expectation that he or she has the potential to grow, to learn and to develop. We believe that an individual with developmental disabilities has the same constitutional rights as any other person including the rights to a home-like environment in a community as a whole.

Respite Care

Another type of service that some group homes provide is what is called respite. Respite is a type of service that some families access to provide them and their loved one with a break so that they can rejuvenate and cope better with the stressors of taking care of people that require constant care. Respite services can be in several forms where sometimes the family leaves their homes for a night and someone comes in to take care of their loved ones or another form is when the loved one leaves for a amount of time and the family stays in their own home. One organization that provides respite services in Becker County is:

Blue Sky Incorporate
1-877-722-3013 or 1-218-844-7591
1000 SE 8th Street
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Guardianship/Power of Attorney/ Conservator

One of the many stressors that families with disabled children have is what will happen when the child's parents are no longer alive. One way to make sure that the loved one is taken care of it so appoint a people to take on financial, and well-being responsibilities.

A **Power of Attorney** is a person that is designated by legal means to act on someone financial behalf. A **Guardian** is someone who has been legally appointed to manage an incapacitated person to make sure that they have food, shelter, clothing, health care and recreation. A **Conservator** is someone legally appointed to mänge and preserve the assets of an incapacitated person.

One organization that helps with the legal process is Lutheran Social Service.

Lutheran Social Service of MN
http://www.lssmn.org/guardianship/power_attorney.html
2485 Como Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
651.310.9400
1.888.242.0012

A law office that offers legal assistance that can help with providing the necessary legal documents

Briggs, Ramstad & Skoyles, P.A.
114 Holmes Street West
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
ph) 218-847-5653
fax) 218-847-2406

Other Services

Service providers who are not necessary located in Becker County, but provide services to Becker County Residents

Freedom Resource Center for Independent Living
Detroit Lakes:
(218) 849-3988
<http://www.freedomrc.org/>

or

Freedom Resource Center For Independent Living, Inc.
2701 9th Ave. SW, Fargo, ND 58103
V/TTY: (701) 478-0459 or (800) 450-0459

From their web site: Freedom Resource Center assists people in working towards goals they establish for themselves. Whether it be resources to learn a new skill, some help with advocacy to get a needed service, the support of a mentor, or basic information on programs or equipment, Freedom helps people make informed decisions about how they will live their lives.

Some of the services that they provide are: Information and referrals, independent living skills training, individual advocacy, and Peer mentoring to list a few.

Minnesota Association of Centers for Independent Living
2720 N. Broadway
Rochester, MN 55906
(507) 285-1815

From their web page: The Minnesota Association of Centers for Independent Living (MACIL) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to advocate for the independent living needs of people with disabilities who are citizens of the State of Minnesota, to develop new resources, identify and provide access to existing resources which provide the services needed by persons with disabilities so that they may live independently in the situation and community of their choice.

Services from this association are resourced through Freedom Resource Center-Detroit Lakes

Government Agencies:

Minnesota Department of Human Services-

Disability Services Division

PO Box 64967

St. Paul, MN 55164-0967

Phone: (651) 431-2400

Fax: (651) 431-7412

Disability Linkage Line: (866) 333-2466

Disability Services Division Resource Center: (888) 968-8463 or (651) 431-2450.

Positively Minnesota

Department of Employment and Economic Development

Main Tel: 651-259-7114

Toll Free: 800-657-3858

TTY: 651-296-3900

1st National Bank Building

332 Minnesota Street, Suite E-200

Saint Paul, MN, 55101-1351

http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/JobSeekers/People_with_Disabilities/index.aspx

One aspect of this website is intended to inform people with disabilities and their caretakers about the services that the State of Minnesota provides for people with disabilities. These services and information covers/includes counseling, training and job skills, living independently, extended employment/long term job supports.

U.S. Department of Housing and Human Development

451 7th Street S.W., Washington, DC 20410

Telephone: (202) 708-1112 TTY: (202) 708-1455

Minneapolis Field Office

International Centre

920 Second Avenue South, Suite 1300

Minneapolis, MN 55402-4012

Phone: (612) 370-3000

Fax: (612) 370-3220

TTY: (612) 370-3186

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/topics/housing_choice_voucher_program_section_8

An FAQ page about section 8 housing vouchers. HUD is one of the most used federal government programs for assisting people find decent and safe housing in the private market. The housing choice vouchers are administered locally by public housing agencies. A family that is issued a housing voucher is responsible for finding a suitable housing unit of choice where the owner agrees to rent under the program. Rental units must meet minimum standards of health and safety.

On the right hand side of the web page is several links that people might use/need when looking for housing.

Social Security Benefits

Social Security Benefits
The United States Social Security Administration
Federal Building/Courthouse
655 1st Avenue North
Fargo, ND 58102-4932
1-800-772-1213
<http://www.ssa.gov/pgm/disability.htm>

There are two types of benefits that children with Autism can qualify for social security benefits. One way is through Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. This program is for parents who may already qualify for receiving food stamps or medicaid. This option provides families with income to help them pay for necessary items. The child must qualify to receive the income and around the child's 18th birthday the child's case is reviewed to see if the child still qualifies to receive assistance as an adult.

Another type of benefit that a child may qualify for is Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). An adult disabled before age 22 may be eligible for child's benefits if one of their parents has died or starts receiving retirement or disability benefits. The Social Security Administration considers this a "child's" benefit because it is paid on a parent's Social Security earnings record. The child does not have to have worked as it is the parent's earnings that benefits are calculated. It is important to see if a child who is receiving SSI is not eligible for SSDI as benefits may be higher if they qualify.

The Social Security Administration publishes a booklet that describes their services. You can either call for a copy, or down load it at <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10026.pdf>

Helpful Websites

Disability Benefits 101
<http://mn.db101.org>

Minnesotans with disabilities want to work. However, many people with disabilities fear that if they go to work, they'll lose needed health care and other disability benefits. With DB101 people can explore different ways to balance benefits and work.

DB101 helps people with disabilities learn how income may impact benefits so they can make informed choices, reduce fears, and ensure work is part of the plan.

This website provides information that covers benefits programs and work incentives, supports a learning process, and has answers to frequently asked questions. Also has links of estimators that allows individuals to enter data and get an estimate of benefits and tailors the information that they receive to their circumstance. This site also has a glossary of terms used and a “talk to an expert” area where people can either call, chat, or email questions and be able to get live help.

MinnesotaHelp.Info

Disability Link

<http://www.minnesotahelp.info/public/default.aspx?se=dlink>

Resources for Minnesotans with disabilities or chronic illnesses and their families or representatives.

The Disability Link section of MinnesotaHelp.info[®] makes it easier for people with disabilities to explore options and make decisions about services, benefits, employment, health care, and more. Some topics include assistive technology, caregivers, PCA assistance, chemical and mental health, options to educate yourself, there is information on health care, housing options, legal resource, and ways to access income support programs. There is also link to find adapted sports, accessible travel, social clubs and other information on other activities.

Questions can be emailed or you can also access help through MinnesotaHelp by chatting with a specialist when they are online.

Disability.Gov

<http://www.disability.gov/>

Disability.gov is a federal government Web site that provides quick and easy access to comprehensive information about disability-related programs, services, laws and benefits. Through the site, people with disabilities, their families, veterans, educators, employers, service providers and others are connected to thousands of resources, updated daily, from federal, state and local governments, educational institutions and non-profit organizations.